



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DU
BARREAU CANADIEN

June 29, 2021

Via email: claims.revendications@sct-trp.ca

The Honourable Justice Victoria Chiappetta
Chairperson
Specific Claims Tribunal Canada
400-427 Laurier Ave W., Box 31
Ottawa, ON K1R 7Y2

Dear Justice Chiappetta:

Re: Specific Claims Tribunal

I am writing on behalf of the Aboriginal Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA Section) to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Chairperson of the Specific Claims Tribunal (SCT) and to request a meeting of the Advisory Committee.

The CBA is a national association of over 36,000 members, including lawyers, notaries, academics and students across Canada, with a mandate to seek improvements in the law and the administration of justice. The CBA Section represents lawyers who specialize in Aboriginal law from across the country, and frequently contributes to legislative and national policy initiatives.

Many CBA Section members appear before the SCT. We have enjoyed a constructive dialogue with the SCT as a member of its Advisory Committee. The Committee has not met since 2018 and we believe it would be timely to restart the practice of regular meetings.

The CBA Section is interested in reviewing, with Tribunal members and other members of the Advisory Committee, the Tribunal's activities since the beginning of the pandemic and discussing best practices in virtual hearings and electronic evidence. We are interested in discussing possible rule changes to permit virtual hearings and primarily electronic evidence after the pandemic ends.

We are also concerned about access to French language resources at the Tribunal. As a bilingual and national organization committed to access to justice, we encourage bilingualism in federal judicial institutions. We would like to discuss this issue with the Tribunal and the Advisory Committee.

We value our ongoing relationship and look forward to assisting the Tribunal through the Advisory Committee. We welcome the opportunity to speak to you and invite your office to contact our advocacy lawyer, Julie Terrien, to coordinate a meeting: juliet@cba.org

Sincerely,

(original letter signed by Julie Terrien for Brian Hebert)

Brian Hebert
Chair, Aboriginal Law Section